

Retiree Activities Office

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RAO Newsletter # 2012-2 - January 6, 2012 - Know a Medically Separated Vet?

If you know of any veterans who were medically separated from military service between September 11, 2001 and December 31, 2009, please let them know they have some recourse if they feel they unfairly received a too-low disability rating from the military.

The Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR) will reassess the accuracy and fairness of the combined disability ratings assigned to service members who were discharged as unfit for continued military service by the military departments with a combined disability rating of 20 percent or less.

Once a review is complete, the PDBR forwards their recommendation to the respective Service Secretary where it is up to the individual service branch to make the final determination on whether to change the original disability determination.

The board outcomes of those who have applied have been very favorable. Nearly half of the applicants have received upgrades to 30% or more, which would make them eligible for a military medical retirement, retiree pay, access to military healthcare and other benefits.

Since the PDBR began reviewing its first cases in June 2009, only 3,000 veterans have applied of the roughly 75,000 eligible veterans.

To encourage greater applications, later this month the VA and the Pentagon plan to begin sending letters to thousands of Post-9/11 eligible veterans.

Help spread the word - most of these wounded warriors won't otherwise know about this important option to correct a possible wrong that were exposed to several years ago during their medical evaluation process.

If you know someone who was medically separated from service since 9-11, they can find out more information on how to apply at: <http://www.health.mil/pdbr>.